



McDermottPlus Healthcare Preview

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22, 2021

HOUSE RECONCILIATION PACKAGE AND NOMINATION HEARINGS.

HOUSE EXPECTED TO PASS THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021. This week, House is expected to pass the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 reconciliation package, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. We do not expect much will change in the package from what was advanced out of the various House Committees. The package included a number of policy changes for Medicaid, public health funding, funding for states and localities, and a \$15 minimum wage increase. Democrats are not expecting any votes from Republicans, so the bill likely advance to Senate on a party line vote. Once in the Senate the question remains what provisions will be added or subtracted from the version that will pass the House. Democrats are aiming to give President Biden a package by mid-March, prior to the expiration of the additional COVID-19 unemployment benefits.

BECERRA NOMINATION HEARINGS. Also happening this week is the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee and Senate Finance Committee nomination hearings for Xavier Becerra for Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary. We are expecting push back from Republicans on his nomination. In fact, Vice President Harris may have to cast the tie breaking vote to confirm his nomination. We will be watching for tone and messaging from Senate Republicans throughout the hearings.

THIS WEEK IN THE SENATE

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

[Hearing to examine the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services](#)
Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 10am

Senate Finance Committee

[Hearing to examine the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services](#)
Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 2pm

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

[Nominations of Vivek Murthy to serve as Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service and Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, and Rachel Levine to serve as Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services](#)
Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 10am

THIS WEEK IN THE HOUSE

House Committee on the Budget

[Markup Of: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#)
Monday, February 22, 2021 at 1pm

House Energy and Commerce Committee

[Pathway to Protection: Expanding Availability of COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 10:30am

House Appropriations Committee

[Ready or Not: U.S. Public Health Infrastructure](#)
Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 10am

House Ways and Means Committee

[The Path Forward on COVID-19 Immunizations](#)
Friday, February 26, 2021 at 2:00pm

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